

SECRETARY OF STATE
TERRI LYNN LAND

Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land was elected to serve as Michigan's 41st Secretary of State in November 2002 and reelected in November 2006. She began her second term on January 1, 2007.

Quality customer service, innovative technology, and a strong elections system are the hallmarks of her administration. Land is committed to providing the highest possible level of customer service in a cost-effective and efficient manner, and has expanded the number of convenient online and automated options the department offers. She has made it easier for voters to participate in elections by implementing a uniform, statewide standard for voting systems and by introducing equipment in polling places that allows voters with disabilities to cast their own ballots. In the area of organ donation, Land has worked with advocacy organizations and the legislature to improve Michigan's donor registry.

Land believes that effective government thinks creatively. Since taking office, she has visited with employees and customers at all of Michigan's Department of State branch offices to gain insight on how to better serve their needs. As a result of these discussions, Land began modernizing the branch office structure, with an emphasis on delivering services regionally. Her modernization plan provides customers with more services closer to home by redirecting resources for greater effectiveness and efficiency.

Land is designated as Michigan's chief motor vehicle administrator, chief election officer, and keeper of the great seal. She is second in line of succession to the governor. Land is a member of the State Administrative Board, the National Association of Secretaries of State, and the Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Committee.

Prior to her current position, Land served as Kent County Clerk from 1992 to 2000, at a time of tremendous change and growth in Michigan's fourth-largest county. She achieved her goal of making county government easier to work with and more accessible by building coalitions with other members of county government, local and statewide judges, and the state legislature.

Land's involvement in politics began in high school, when she was a volunteer for the Gerald R. Ford for President campaign. She was one of the youngest attendees at the Republican State Convention in 1978. Heavy involvement with community organizations is a priority for Land. She is active with the Detroit Economic Club, the Van Singel Fine Arts Foundation, and the Women's Resource Center.

Of all her accomplishments, Land is most proud of her family. She married Dan Hibma in 1983, and they have two children together, Jessica and Nicholas. They attend Corinth Reformed Church, where Land was nursery supervisor for years. A graduate of Grandville High School, she earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Hope College in Holland, Michigan.